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SASKATCHEWAN 4-H HONOURS LONG-TIME VOLUNTEERS

Rural Saskatchewan has produced many great leaders over the years. A well-known organization that has done a lot to foster leadership among the province's rural youth recently took time to honour three of its own leaders who have contributed greatly to its work.

The Saskatchewan 4-H Council recognized three of its foremost volunteers as it inducted Wilma Lovdahl, Lambert Wourms and Ronald Oliver into its Hall of Fame. The ceremony was held at a banquet in conjunction with its annual general meeting in April.

The criteria for induction into the Saskatchewan 4-H Hall of Fame stipulate that nominees must have made an outstanding contribution to the 4-H movement in Saskatchewan, outside of an employment situation, for at least 15 years. The contribution must extend beyond the club level on a district, regional or provincial basis. A selection committee evaluates the nominations and chooses inductees from files saved for three years.

Wilma Lovdahl began her involvement in 4-H in 1953 when she organized the Hendon 4-H Homecraft Club. She later became the first assistant leader of the Hendon 4-H Beef Club, and then general leader.

Lovdahl hosted exchange 4-H members from the United States and served on the District 42 4-H Council. She was secretary-treasurer of the Wadena District Livestock and 4-H Association, and kept the community and region informed of club activities.

Lambert Wourms was a member of the St. Walburg 4-H Club for seven years, and a leader for 25. His father and son were and are long-time leaders, as well. Wourms' activity extended beyond the club level as district president in the 1960s and emcee of the St. Walburg Regional Show and Sale for 50 years.

Wourms served many community organizations, and even ventured into municipal politics. He is an Honourary Life Member of the St. Walburg Agricultural Society, and has been named Cattleman of the Year by the Lloydminster Agricultural Exhibition Association.

Ronald Oliver joined the Hillmond 4-H Multiple Club in 1961, and served as beef leader beginning in 1971 before stepping up to general leader in 1977. Beyond the club level, he was president of District 35, represented the northwest on the Saskatchewan 4-H Council and has counseled at several 4-H camps.

(more)

Oliver organizes the PFRA tree fundraiser and volunteers for many community associations.

Saskatchewan 4-H Outreach Co-ordinator Lee Walerius says the 2008 inductees have set a tremendous example for others in the organization and in their communities to follow. "This year's inductees basically live our motto and exemplify the four Hs of head, heart, hands and health," Walerius stated.

"They are always willing to be there to help with whatever needs to be done. They help the kids have an opportunity to experience the skills that 4-H presents. They are passionate about what they do. They want to teach about a future in agriculture and teach leadership and life skills to our young people, because they will be the future of our province."

According to Walerius, there are 218 4-H clubs with 3,797 members and 970 leaders located throughout Saskatchewan.

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